

# SPORT FISHING

## *Emergency Order*

ALASKA DEPARTMENT  
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 2-RS-1-17-03

Issued at Soldotna, July 19, 2003

Effective 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 2003  
Date:

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. December 31,  
2003, unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order.

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order increases the bag limit for salmon, other than king salmon, from three per day and in possession to six per day and in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River and Russian River Sanctuary Area. Included in the six salmon daily bag and possession limit, no more than two salmon per day may be coho salmon and no more than three salmon may be chum salmon. This emergency order is effective at 6:00 pm, Saturday, July 19, 2003.

The Russian River and Russian River Sanctuary Area bag and possession limits remain at three per day and in possession of which not more than one per day and in possession may be a coho salmon.

### REGULATION:

The provisions of 5 AAC 56.023(a)(3)(A)(iii) are superceded by this emergency order. Under this emergency order the following provisions are effective beginning 6:00 p.m. Saturday, July 19, 2003:

### **5 AAC 56.023 SEASONS; BAG, POSSESSION, AND SIZE LIMITS; AND SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR THE KENAI RIVER DRAINAGE.**

(a)(3) salmon, other than king salmon,

(A) 16 inches or greater in length as follows:

(iii) bag and possession limit for sockeye, coho, and chum salmon in combination is six fish, of which no more than two may be coho salmon and no more than 3 may be chum salmon; in addition, the bag and possession limit for pink salmon is six fish;

Kevin C. Duffy  
Commissioner

By delegation to:

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Mark S. Gamblin  
Area Management Biologist

### JUSTIFICATION:

The Kenai River Late Run Sockeye Management Plan 5 ACC 21.360 (h)(2) stipulates that the department may, by emergency order, increase the bag and possession limit to six sockeye salmon when the department determines that the abundance of late-run sockeye exceeds two million salmon. While an

in-season projection of Kenai sockeye salmon has not been made at this time, based upon commercial harvest or in-river passage estimates, there is no indication that 2003 Kenai sockeye salmon run is below the preseason forecast of 2.04 million.

The Upper Cook Inlet commercial harvest of over 2.0 million sockeye salmon has already exceeded the preseason forecast and over 520,000 sockeye salmon have passed the Kenai River sonar at river mile 19 through July 18; 300,000 of which have passed in the last three days. The lower end of the optimal escapement goal (500,000 – 1,000,000 sockeye salmon) will be achieved.

Therefore, it is warranted to increase the bag and possession limit for salmon, other than kings, to six per day and in possession in all portions of the Kenai River open to salmon fishing except in the Russian River and Russian River Sanctuary Area.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution list for this emergency order is on file at the Region 2 Office of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Sport Fish, 333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, AK 99518, (907) 267-2221.